

**A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION  
FOR  
SIBYL CHAMBLISS MOSES**

**SUNRISE: APRIL 27, 1922**

**SUNSET: NOVEMBER 26, 2007**



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007  
TEN O'CLOCK A.M.**

**TRINITY AND SAINT PHILIP'S CATHEDRAL  
608 BROAD STREET  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07103**

**THE VERY REVEREND C. DAVID WILLIAMS, DEAN  
OFFICIATING**

# ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SIBYL CHAMBLISS MOSES

Dean C. David Williams, Officiant  
Dr. DeCosta Dawson, Organist

PRELUDE  
RECEPTION OF THE BODY  
OPENING ANTHEMS  
HYMN 20 (LEV)  
COLLECT FOR BURIAL  
HYMN 5 (LEV)

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*  
Book of Common Prayer, page 466  
Book of Common Prayer, page 491  
*When We All Get to Heaven* (Hewitt)  
Book of Common Prayer, page 493  
*Great Day* (Negro Spiritual)

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 61:1-3

Gail Barkley

PSALM 100

Book of Common Prayer, page 729 (Congregation)

SECOND LESSON - Revelations 7: 9-17

Brenda Chambliss Reed

GRADUAL HYMN 184 (LEV)

*Blessed Assurance* (Crosby)

THE GOSPEL - John 14:1-6

The Very Rev. C. David Williams

SOLO

Kathryn Helms Harris

REFLECTIONS

Obituary

Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D.

Remarks on Behalf of the Family

Della Moses Walker

Resolutions and Tributes

St. Monica's Guild;

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;

North Jersey Bridge Unit; Eddie Mae Livingston

Kathryn Helms Harris

SOLO

The Very Rev. C. David Williams

HOMILY (Eulogy)

Book of Common Prayer, page 496 (Congregation)

APOSTLES CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Book of Common Prayer, page 497 (Congregation responds)

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

SURSUM CORDA

Book of Common Prayer, page 361

SANCTUS

Book of Common Prayer, page 362

LORD'S PRAYER

Book of Common Prayer, page 364 (Congregation)

COMMUNION HYMN 208 (1982)

*The Strife Is O'er*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Book of Common Prayer, page 498 (Congregation)

THE COMMENDATION

Book of Common Prayer, page 499

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

*Soon and Very Soon* (Crouch)

RECESSIONAL HYMN 14 (LEV)

Fairmount Cemetery, Newark, New Jersey

POSTLUDE

INTERMENT

# SIBYL CHAMBLISS MOSES

Sunrise: April 27, 1922 – Sunset: November 26, 2007

## Ancestry:

**Sibyl Elizabeth Chambliss Moses**, loving wife, devoted mother and grandmother, family matriarch, loyal friend, wise counselor, and x-ray and laboratory technician, was born in Jackson, Mississippi on April 27, 1922. She was the fourth child of seven children born to Celestia Moses Chambliss (1895-1975; a graduate of Claflin College in South Carolina) and Cleveland Rudolph Chambliss (1889-1966; a 1913 graduate of Alcorn College, and businessman on historic Farrish Street in Jackson, Mississippi). Her mother was a native of Anniston, Alabama; her father, a native of Tillman, Mississippi. Sibyl inherited the name of her maternal aunt and renowned civil rights activist, Sibyl Elizabeth Moses (1890-1982).

The maternal grand daughter of Stephen E. Moses (b. 1866 in LaGrange, Georgia; a graduate of Clark College and Atlanta University) and Della Brockman Moses (b. South Carolina; graduate of Clark College), and the paternal grand daughter of Marcus Chambliss and Susan Claiborne Chambliss of Tillman (Jefferson and Claiborne County), Mississippi, Sibyl spent summers with both sets of grandparents. When visiting Tillman, she recalled jumping off the train as it slowed down, because there was no train station in Tillman.

In one generation, her ancestors transcended slavery to become active in this nation's military and education arenas. Her paternal grandfather, Marcus Chambliss, escaped from slavery, joined the "colored troops" of the Union Army during the American Civil War, and participated in the famous 1863 Battle of Milliken's Bend, in Vicksburg. Her maternal grandfather, Stephen E. Moses, became the principal of the West 17<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School, the first public school for African Americans in Anniston, Alabama, and, from 1898 until 1900 served as president of the Alabama State Teachers Association. Grandmother, Della Brockman Moses, was a teacher at that same school. Sibyl was a product of a family who overcame the burden of enslavement by succeeding as liberators, educators, and entrepreneurs. She was aware of the possibilities and this enabled her to confidently and proudly embrace, live, rejoice, and share this rich family history, bequeath this legacy, and teach these values to her children.

## Family:

After meeting at a Howard University Alumni dance in Newark, Sibyl Elizabeth Chambliss and John Edison Moses were married on June 19, 1949 at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, in Jackson, Mississippi. They were married for fifty-seven (57) years. From this union, five children were born: Sibyl Elizabeth, James Edison, Della Marie, and the twins, Carol Ann and Karen Louise. Sibyl and Edison also lovingly raised and educated two grandchildren: Chaz Brantley and Caryne Thomasina. They nurtured granddaughter, Della Marie, and great-grandson, Jaylen Edison.

Mrs. Moses dedicated herself to her family. Her unselfish decision ensured the success of her husband's career and the educational endeavors of her five children, and later, her grandchildren. Her family always came first. She nurtured and supported her immediate and her extended families. Although she stayed at home with her children, she remained very much aware of community, national, and international issues. She read widely, and participated in civic and social activities.

As a team, Sibyl and Edison provided the encouragement and support for their children to enter the following professions: library science, secondary and special education, real estate, culinary arts, and engineering. Eldest daughter, Sibyl E. is a Federal government librarian in Washington, D.C.; James is a retired secondary school teacher in Trenton and an internationally recognized chef; Della is a real estate magnate in Newark; Carol is an engineer in Baltimore, and Karen is homemaker in Newark. Sibyl and Edison also nurtured their children's appreciation of music, art, literature and sports. One daughter, Carol, is also an accomplished violinist; another daughter, Sibyl, is a state and national award-winning author; grandson, Chaz, is an accomplished golfer and was captain of his college golf team. Mrs. Moses was proud of her children's accomplishments and would always accompany them to their speaking events, exhibitions, and other activities.

"Momma" created many wonderful memories. She laughed all the time, set us straight all the time, enforced strict table etiquette, and planned our lives so that we never had an idle moment or a moment to idle. While her children were young, she often cooked a different international dish every Tuesday evening, and made arts and crafts to introduce us to various cultures. She saw to it that we knew and developed close relationships with our cousins by sending us to Mississippi or Detroit during the summer. She was known for her elaborate and beautiful table settings during the family's Christmas Eve dinners, always followed by lively pinochle sessions with cousins, Carolyn Halsey Sweeney and Marie Brantley Gaines, along with two of our godmothers, Olivia Alston Woolridge and Waltine Winner Thomas.

### **Education:**

A product of the Jackson, Mississippi Public School System, Sibyl graduated from Lanier High School in 1940. She attended Jackson State College from September 1940 until June 1942, majoring in elementary education. From September 1942 until June 1943, she attended the Lincoln Hospital School for Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians, in Durham, North Carolina, graduating in 1943.

In 1955, following the birth of her first three children, Mrs. Moses resumed her studies in elementary education at Seton Hall University, and took various courses until 1957. She earned her New Jersey state certification as an X-Ray Technician, and continuously pursued professional development activities by attending the meetings of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.

### **Career:**

Following graduation from Lincoln Hospital, Sibyl E. Chambliss migrated north to Newark to work at the New Jersey state and nationally historic Community Hospital, formerly the Kenney Memorial Hospital, and an African American hospital in Newark. As the only Laboratory and X-Ray Technician at Community Hospital, Sibyl held that position for four years, 1943 until 1947, and was responsible for blood counts and performing urinalysis, blood chemistry, bacteriological examinations, tissue examinations, and also assisted the pathologist with dictation for autopsies and in administering opaque media, performed radiographic procedures, and other duties. She recalled traveling by bus from Jackson to Newark, being cautioned not to miss her stop, and making certain that she got off at the second stop in New Jersey. She said that her salary was \$75.00 a month, including room and board, and that she was paid every two weeks. Her colleagues became her life-long friends, and the god parents of her children.

In 1947, in an effort to broaden her experiences and increase her salary, she accepted the position of Hematology and Blood Bank Technician at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. She remained in that position from 1947 until 1949. There she performed blood typing and cross matching, RH factor and serological examinations, inoculated rabbits and made autopsies, and also performed blood counts and differential counts including bone marrow smears.

Following a twelve-year break from her career to marry, return to Newark, and begin a family, Mrs. Moses resumed work only after her three eldest children were enrolled in school. In November 1961, she accepted the position of Senior X-Ray Technician at the Martland Medical Center, later University Hospital, from which she retired in the early 1990's.

### **Religious Affiliation:**

Sibyl Chambliss Moses was a member of the Episcopal Church during her entire life. She was christened and confirmed at the Saint Mark's Episcopal Church on West Pearl Street in Jackson, Mississippi. When she moved to Newark in 1943, she joined Saint Philip's Episcopal Church, located on the corner of High and Market Streets. She became active in the Young People's Fellowship (YPF); her age-mates in the YPF evolved into the "Epicureans Club", remaining friends for more than sixty years. When the church was destroyed by a fire on December 20, 1964, Mrs. Moses and her children moved, with the congregation, to Trinity Cathedral, later renamed Trinity and St. Philip's Episcopal Cathedral. Sibyl was active in her church, and was a member of St. Monica's Guild; she fervently supported their annual card party.

### **Hobbies and Organizational Affiliations:**

Mrs. Moses was a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Iota Phi Lambda Sorority; Saint Monica's Guild. As an active member of the North Jersey Bridge Unit, Sibyl and Edison derived great joy from their participation in regional and national bridge tournaments. She loved to entertain, and enjoyed preparing for her card parties; in the summer, you would often find her playing bridge or pinochle, on her front porch, with friends and family. She shared many wonderful times with her card-playing friends in the "Matinee 12."

Sibyl loved to travel, and in her younger days she traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America, and to several African countries. Sibyl visited Nigeria on two occasions, once with her husband in 1974 for their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, and then later with her cousin, Thomasina Brantley. Earlier this year, she took a cruise to the Panama Canal, with daughter Della and granddaughter Caryne, satisfying a life-long desire.

She was also an avid collector of cookbooks, glass slippers, music boxes, and African American memorabilia. Sibyl and her husband both valued the role of African American organizations as significant gatekeepers of the culture, and this value they instilled in their children. Sibyl was "sweet and kind" to everyone; she brought great joy, and was a blessing, to everyone with whom she interacted.

### **A New Beginning:**

Sibyl Chambliss Moses' earthly mission was completed peacefully and victoriously on Monday, November 26, 2007 at her home in Newark, New Jersey, where she had lived for more than fifty three years. She has joined her ancestors, become absent from her body, and is now present with the Lord.

Mrs. Moses was preceded in death by her husband of fifty seven years, John Edison Moses; her parents, Cleveland and Celestia Chambliss; two sisters, Della Chambliss Mays and Celestia Chambliss Porter; and, two brothers, Cleveland Robert Chambliss and Edgar Chambliss. She also joins a long line of ancestors who transitioned from positions of enslavement and the burdens of segregation, to positions of great influence in a Union Army Civil War regiment, a colored state teachers' association, African American businesses, and in other professions.

Her spirit is ever present with her five children, whom she leaves to cherish her memory: Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D., of Silver Spring, Maryland; James E. Moses of Trenton, New Jersey; Della Moses Walker of Newark, New Jersey; Carol Ann Moses of Glenn Dale, Maryland; Karen Louise Moses, of Newark, New Jersey; grandchildren: Della M. Walker, Chaz Brantley Moses, and Caryne T. Moses; great grandson, Jaylen E. Walker.

Surviving is a brother: Marque Chambliss (Mavis) of Jackson, Mississippi; a sister, Regina Chambliss Lynch (Sylvester) of Los Angeles, California; two sisters-in-law: Dr. Harriette Clark Chambliss of Washington, D.C. and Mrs. Audrey Chambliss, of Bluffton, South Carolina; devoted cousin, Brenda Chambliss Reed, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, friends, and neighbors. To know her was to have loved, and smiled, with her.

### **“I Left My Heart In Your Chair”**

**Dear Grandma,**

*I left my heart in your chair...  
to remember all the great times we had.*

*I left my heart in your chair...  
to let you know how and what I feel.*

*I left my heart in your chair...  
to tell you what I fear.*

*I left my heart in your chair...  
knowing how you loved to hear me sing.*

*I left my heart in your chair...  
to try to understand the grief I had.*

*Now that my heart is left in the chair...  
there's nothing else I fear.*

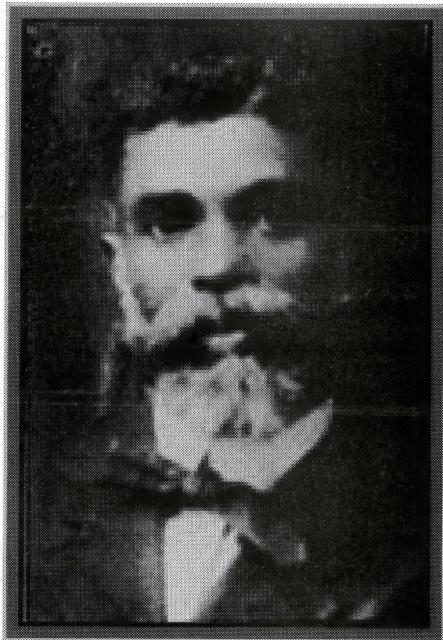
I miss you and I will never forget you.

With Much Love,

**Caryne Thomasina Moses (Age 13, Third Grandchild)**



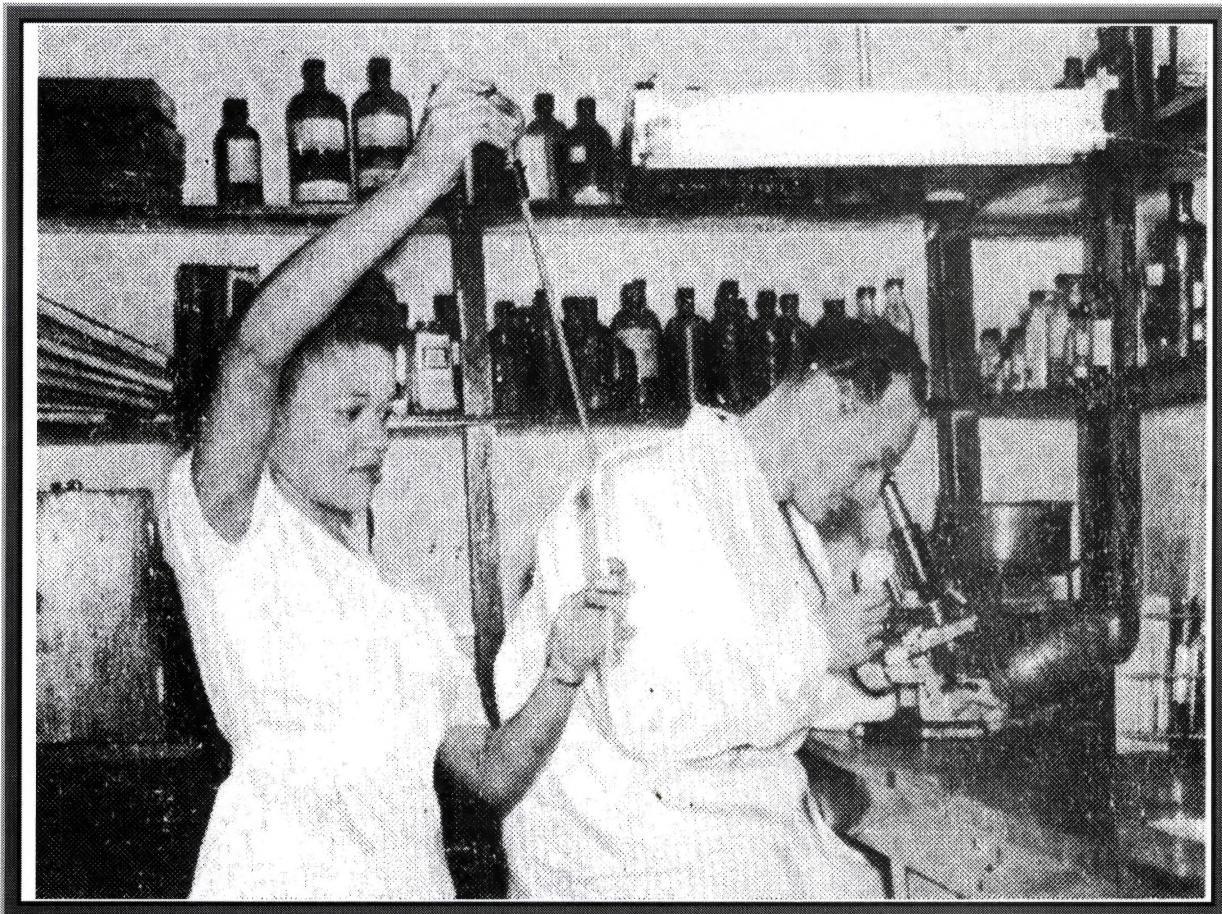
Della Brockman Moses (maternal grandmother)



Stephen E. Moses (maternal grandfather)



Cleveland and Celestia Chambliss and Children (Sibyl is seated on right)



Sibyl E. Chambliss, X-Ray and Laboratory Technician, Community Hospital, Newark, New Jersey (formerly Kenney Memorial Hospital), 1943. Her first professional position.

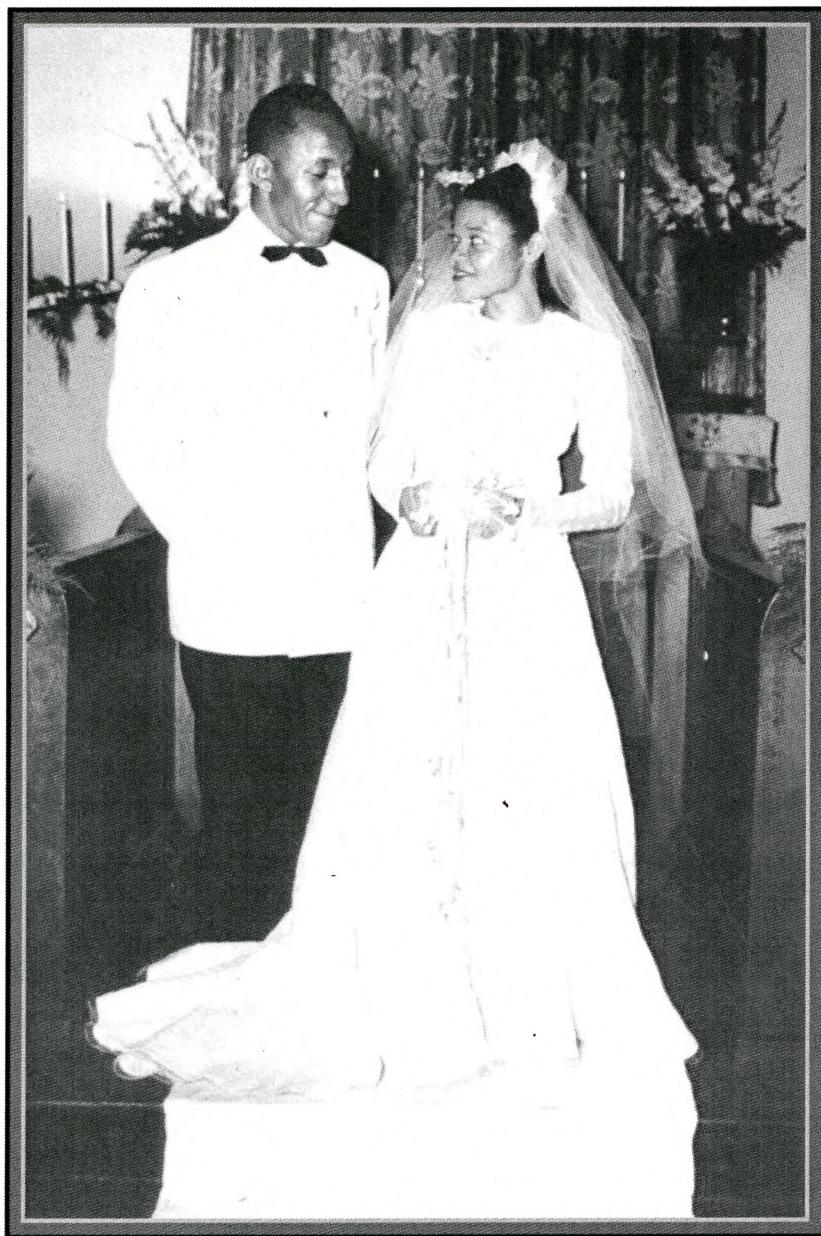


Young People's Fellowship, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Newark, 1943



John Edison Moses weds Sibyl Elizabeth Chambliss, St Mark's Episcopal Church  
Jackson, Mississippi on June 19, 1949

**Together Again...**



**Interment**

Fairmount Cemetery, Central Avenue, Newark, New Jersey

**Acknowledgement**

The family of Sibyl C. Moses acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during their bereavement hour. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and concern.

**Repast Invitation**

Immediately following the Burial, the family will continue in Thanksgiving for the life of  
Sibyl C. Moses

Priory Restaurant, 233 West Market Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107  
(973) 242-8012

**Final Arrangements Entrusted To**

James E. Churchman Funeral Home, 345 Thirteenth Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07103